

**Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**March 13, 2006**

**Members Present:** Alan Bowser, Charlotte Coffield, Korey Hartwich, Graciela Jaschek, Jon Lourie, Phillip Olivetti, Victor Salazar, Debbie Spielberg, Mitch Warren, Eric Hensal, Loyce Grigsby, Kathryn Stevens, and John Evanoff, Mary Pat Spon, Victor Weissberg, Darian Unger and Mark Woodard

**Members Absent:** Marilyn Seitz

**Welcome/Introductions**

Meeting was called to order and Debbie Spielberg, Chair welcomed the new members. Members of the Board, Staff, and Guests were introduced.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** (Grigsby, Seitz) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board adopted the minutes of the February meeting minutes as amended change on page 10 from List of Standard Committee to List of Standing Committee.

**County Executive Report:**

Paul Folkers reported that:

- Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan will unveiled his fiscal year (FY) 2007 operating budget on March 15, 2006. *(For complete details see News Release located in the Informational Reading Materials Section of packet).*
- The County Executive Douglas M. Duncan y announced a major expansion of the County's health care access program for low-income, uninsured residents, doubling the amount of money currently being spent for care. The program, called Montgomery Cares, provides health care at several community clinics and health centers and is a partnership between the County government, the County's hospitals, faith-based organizations and non-profits. *(For complete details see News Release located in the Informational Reading Materials Section of packet).*
- Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan announced a major increase in transportation spending for the County, including a 21 percent increase in mass transit funding and more than \$80 million of local money being put towards accelerating State road projects that are currently stalled, a proposal championed by County Council member Nancy Floreen. The additional transportation on bus service, the purchase of new buses, and priority road improvement funding, part of Duncan's budget for next year, will go towards increased Ride projects. Duncan will formally submit his fiscal year 2007 budget to the County Council on

March 15. *(For complete details see News Release located in the Informational Reading Materials Section of packet).*

- Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan today announced a \$2.2 billion education budget that expands all-day kindergarten to every elementary school in the County, increases support for special education students, freezes tuition at Montgomery College and adds school-based health centers and services to more schools in the County. Duncan also announced that he has identified additional revenue to keep some key school construction projects on schedule for completion. *(For complete details see News Release located in the Informational Reading Materials Section of packet)*
- Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan announced that his County has filed suit against the Bush Administration in an effort to allow seniors and others in the community to re-import prescription medications from Canada. The lawsuit, filed in United States District Court in Greenbelt, appeals a U.S. Food and Drug Administration denial of a Montgomery County waiver request under the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act (MMA) to allow County residents and employees to import lower cost prescription drugs from Canada. *(For complete details see News Release located in the Informational Reading Materials Section of packet)*
- Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Romer has announced his appointment of Fariba Kassiri as an Assistant Chief Administrative Officer for Montgomery County.
- Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan endorsed a resolution introduced this week by the County Council that would establish free parking at County public libraries, at the same time, asking that municipalities do their part to support the policy. Implementing such a policy would require the City of Rockville to provide free parking at the garage it owns and operates that will serve the County's new Rockville library. The resolution will also require the County to make provisions to prevent Metro commuters from using the limited number of spaces at the Bethesda library, without charging library patrons for parking. *(For complete details see News Release located in the Informational Reading Materials Section of packet)*

### **Follow-up issue**

Paul Folkers stated that at the last meeting Eric Hensal had asked about the Homeland Security Survey and the report on the survey has not been completed to my knowledge but the contact person for the survey is Miguel Ascarrunz, 240-777-2323.

### **Q&A**

Mitch Warren asked Paul Folkers about the transportation request and did he mention 24 additional Ride-On buses 8 of which would be CNG and 9 hybrids.

Paul Folkers responded that 24 of the 83 routes will get additional services and funding is provided for eight new compressed natural gas buses and nine hybrids diesel-electric buses for the Ride On fleet that will provide nearly 35,000 more service hours.

Mitch Warren asked if it was the intent that the hybrid would go into the general community.

Paul Folkers responded that he is not aware of how the buses would be allocated or what routes they might run but he will check.

Mark Woodard stated that Paul Folkers report has good information but it would be helpful to have it in advance.

Alan Bowser told Paul Folkers that they had received good news over the last couple of weeks that the tree in the Lyttonsville community has been removed. Members of the Board and the community would like to thank you for your efforts in getting this completed.

Darian Unger stated to Paul Folkers that some items he mentioned were put in terms of money and others in terms of number of buses or number of people hired so I just want to put them in the same content. How much does eighty new firefighters and 5 new sheriff deputy cost us relative to the \$3.2 million dollars.

Paul Folkers responded that he did not know if he had those numbers but I can certainly capture those and get back to you.

Darian Unger told Paul Folkers he would appreciate him finding out the answer and reporting back to the full board because otherwise they were comparing apples and oranges and this information would be helpful to have in terms of the budget and cost of all the things described.

Jerry Yokoyama asked Paul Folkers what was the status of the pilot program in Rockville regarding the lighted crosswalk.

Paul Folkers stated that the program had been done in Rockville on a pilot basis to evaluate how effective the lighted crosswalk would be. I do not know if there has been a formal report done on that evaluation. There are concerns about the maintenance of those systems and expense to fix.

Gary Stith stated that the comment from the Traffic Engineers in DPWT is that they are concerned that people have the feeling that the crosswalks with lights and pavement creates some type of force field that protects them from cars hitting them and that is not the case. There concern is that it gives people a false sense of safety that really isn't there and pedestrian still need to be careful when crossing. Another concern is cars approaching it may not really understand what the flashing lights in the pavement means so I don't know if the evaluation is finished or not but I know these are there concerns. We can check with DPWT for the status and get back with you or maybe through the Transportation/Pedestrian Safety Committee and they can get a full report back to the board.

**Chairs Report:**

Debbie Spielberg reported that:

- In your February packet are letters that were faxed to the Congressional Delegations on Old Blair Auditorium. We have supported this issue in the past and it was a time sensitive issue and I talked with Alan Bowser and various others about the substance of the letter and basically took our old letter and changed who it was addressed to and rearranged the order.
- In January Victor Salazar and I went to the Bruce Romer, Chief Administrative Officer and met with him along with other Silver Spring Boards and talked about the Operating Budget and our priorities. The SSCAB list is in your packet again. In December the list of priorities from Urban District Advisory Committee, Transportation Management District Advisory, and Recreation Advisory Board were in your packets and it was interesting to see that some issues overlapped. I am pointing this out because the County Executive is submitting his Operating Budget and our next step in this is to give testimony to County Council some time between March and April. Members need to look over the list of priorities and get your comments back to me as soon as possible.

Gary Stith stated that the testimony will be before the SSCAB next meeting. Once the County Executive submits his budget Muriel Bowser and I will go through the budget and look for things that relate to issues the Board is interested in or things that specifically apply to Silver Spring and try to outline those for you.

Debbie Spielberg stated that they don't have much time and we try and highlight issues as we did for the CIP Budget such as Civic Center, Library etc.

- The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board Retreat will be Saturday, May 6 at the New Fire Station, Urban District Office, 8110 Georgia Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, starting at 9:00 a.m. We will be working on the format for the retreat, how long and what the discussion are so stay tuned for more details and request for your input
- PRESCO is looking to do a forum on budget working with the community to show them how to learn more about the various budgets and involvement. They would like SSCAB to be a co-sponsor of that event and have someone from the SSCAB to be a point person. They hoping to do this some time in the fall after the election.

**Motion:** (Spielberg, Woodward) that the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board unanimously agreed to co-sponsor of the Budget Forum that PRESCO is hoping to host in the fall.

Debbie Spielberg asked for volunteers to be the point person on this effort and Alan Bowser, Mark Woodard, and Mary Pat Spon volunteered. Debbie Spielberg informed those that volunteered that she would pass their names on to Andrew Klein who is the coordinator of this effort.

Victor Salazar asked Debbie Spielberg what the monetary commitment would be on their part.

Debbie Spielberg responded that each Co-Sponsor share would be no more than \$200.00 dollars and Gary Stith thought they could find that amount in the Regional Center Budget.

Debbie Spielberg stated that they want an organizing committee to firm up plans for the day and they ask for additional help to contact speakers and help on the day of the forum. They have put together a tentative plan that is tremendously lengthy and my personal opinion would be that it is to long. There was an e-mail forward from PRESCO which the new members probably did not receive so if folks would like to wait a month until I send it around I'd be happy to do that.

### **Parliamentary Procedure**

Korey Hartwich called to the Boards attention page 109 in the packet that the rules for absenteeism are strict courtesy of County Council and to his understanding they intend to enforce them so be aware that you can ***only miss 3 meetings*** under the Absenteeism Guidelines before you are automatically removed. The new bylaws are also in the packet and please take a glance at them and if you have questions or don't understand something please let me know.

I am passing around Robert Rules of Order Revised 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2000. I will clarify what calling the previous questions is because at the last meeting we had a misunderstanding. If you call the previous question that means you are moving to cut off all debate. ***The way that procedure will be done is you make a motion and some one else is required to 2<sup>nd</sup>, and if no 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion fails. If some one else does 2<sup>nd</sup> we will have a vote but no debate on this at all and that is part of the rule and 2/3 is required to cut off all debate.***

Mitch Warren stated that he noted in the minutes we don't includes the votes as to whether it was unanimously or vote 10 to 4 and I think this would be helpful if we actually listed them.

Korey Hartwich stated he did not have a problem with doing that if the body decides to do that.

Korey Hartwich stated that regularly Debbie Spielberg states if there is no more discussion we will move to call to question and what she is really saying is that she is looking for objection. If you object to her calling to question than she is exercising the Chairs right and moving directly to the question and if you object to her doing so at the time than she needs to call to question. I am just informing you of this because several people raised some concern at the last meeting about the way the debate was cut off last time.

### **CED Committee**

Phil Olivetti reported that:

The Commercial Economic Development Committee, Of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board met February 15, 2006 – 7:30 PM - Silver Spring Regional Center

**Attendance:** CED Members: Chair Phil Olivetti, Mark Woodard, Marilyn Seitz, Darien Unger, Cris and Mark Bombaugh, Jane Homes, Gary Stith-SS Reg. Director, SS Reg. Center, Marcie Stickle- SS Historic District, George French-Takoma Park, Stuart Prince – Lynne Hansen- PFA

Silver Spring L.C. The Peterson; Don Hague, Anne Martin – KSI; Richard Pertmuther, Argo Investments Co.

- **Montgomery College** –Reviewed the current status of the construction on Blair Park/King Street/ Georgia Ave. – Student Center 97% complete – occupancy this week. King Street Art Center is in process of renovation of the bakery space which will include classrooms, studios, 20 studios rented out below market price. Thirty percent of the old bakery will be removed to make room for an outdoor art center with kilns.  
The Cultural Arts Theater is the next construction to hopefully begin this fall with a two year schedule. It is a \$29million project with full funding, designs are 75 % complete. It will have a 500 seat theatre, a black box, classrooms and offices. A glass second floor façade on the corner will house the dance classroom. A parking garage will be built along the train tracks. The college is asking for abandonment of King Street and will maintain the street. There was a public meeting on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> with 200 flyers to neighbors, e-mails, and civic org. There will be a Mandatory Referral hearing on March 16<sup>th</sup>.  
**Action** – CED recommended supporting the construction and the abandonment of King Street pending the approval of citizens at Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> public meeting. Phil will write letter.

### **Discussion:**

Phil Olivetti presented the letter that was on page 47 of the packet regarding Montgomery College Cultural Center located at Georgia and King.

Gary Stith pointed out that King Street is not a through street it stops at the railroad tracks and the only property that use King Street is Montgomery College properties.

Darian Unger stated because this issue seems not controversial I moved to previous question.

**Motion:** (Olivetti, Evanoff) that the letter dated March 10 to Mr. Berlage, Chairman, Parking on the Montgomery College Art Center be adopted by the Board as written. The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board unanimously voted to the send the letter as written in the packet. **(All 17 in support)**

- **Midtown** – This KSI condo development is making some project plan amendments to its original design which we approved May 10, 2005. New plan flips the C shape so the open park will be in the front of the building. The height of the two towers is lowered from 200ft to 193-196ft. They will have 317 condos reduced from 336 with some ground level retail and 370 underground parking spaces. These condos will have 9ft ceilings with amenities of roof pool and garden, guest suites, conference room, and bike storage. They will renovate the neighboring parking garage to accommodate passage of traffic necessary on Dixon Street during the Transit Center construction. This is an optional method development – county will decide whether they have MPDU's or payment form. March 30<sup>th</sup> hearing.  
**Action** – CED voted to endorse changes. Phil will write letter.  
**Action** - CED voiced concern about growing lack of lower priced housing in SS and thinking of asking for a review with HCA (Housing and Community Affairs)

### **Discussion on proposed CED endorse letter presented to full SSCAB on KSI Services**

Alan Bowser stated that he had raised this issue before that we should have a simplified approach to these letters especially the ones coming from the CED when it talks about the Board's support of a particular project. I thought that the framework or format of the letter should have a paragraph that states the Board supports the project and another paragraph saying we like the amenities of the developer/builders that have been incorporated in the project. Another paragraph toward the end of the letter should discuss any policy and concerns that this Board has about the project in the Central Business District. I raised these concerns at the Executive Committee Meeting and stated that this was an opportunity for the Board to express its view about affordable housing rather than present the obvious statement that developer could either buy out from his requirement to have affordable housing or they could also have affordable housing. I think given the affordable housing crisis that we have in Silver Spring and across the County have an opportunity to say in the letter something to this effect. We understand that KSI has not yet decided how to comply with the County affordable housing policy. However, because the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board gives high priority to increasing the amount of affordable housing in Silver Spring we urge you to press this issue with the Developer. This would give us an opportunity to weigh in, discuss and support more of what counts in Silver Spring.

Eric Hensal stated that he agreed with what Alan Bowser had stated and thought this paragraph basically states we applaud them for following the law. I think we should try and get something more conditional and we support this especially if or something to address the housing problems. We need to make a comment that actually states we care about affordable housing in Silver Spring and we strongly encourage the plan that would include units on site.

Debbie Spielberg read the language to the KSI letter which Alan Bowser submitted as follows: 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, First sentence remains the same than we would say However, because the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board believes that it is important that new residential projects in Silver Spring include Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDUs) in line with Montgomery County Policy we urge the Board to emphasize a priority that the community gives to this issue in its discussion with KSI Services. Alan Bowser also suggested shortening the last paragraph but the first sentence remains the same as follows Silver Spring's Ripley District needs economic revitalization and this KSI project will be the lead project towards that end. The SSCAB welcomes and supports the changes to the project.

**Motion:** (Olivetti, Bowser) friendly amendment to modify the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> paragraphs.

Darian Unger stated that he agreed and encouraged this but he also thought it was probably mute because KSI has already proposed this to the County. The County looked at them and asked what planet are they coming from. I support affordable housing but I think we may be behind the times on it.

Jerry Yokoyama asked about the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph what happens to the money

Gary Stith stated the money goes into the County's Housing Initiative Fund

Alan Bowser stated that the money is suppose to be applied to the area where the building was created so there have been several buy outs in the course of the development of downtown Silver Spring. I recently saw in a newspaper article that the amount of money that they get for the buy out is actually not a lot of money.

Debbie Spielberg stated that the Board needed to move along and that this is a formal letter that is weighing in on Park and Planning and so we still have an opportunity to weigh in if we want to

Darian Unger, move to previous question, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Woodard. All in Board members in favor of move to previous questions and ending this debate. *(16 in favor with 1 abstention)*

Debbie Spielberg stated that all those in favor of sending the letter as amendment to Chairman Berlage

**Motion:** The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agreed to send the amended letter to Chairman Berlage with regard to KSI Services. *(14 in favor, 1 opposed and 2 abstentions)*

**The Ellsworth Condominiums** will be located behind the Civic Building. Developer PFA'S PROJECT IS a four story 222 condos with 31 MPDU's, 260 parking spaces, it will have a 60ft height with a 22 ft drop in elevation. The design is a loft concept with a townhouse brick and pre-cast type façade. PFA will present design to Seven Oaks Evanswood soon. Plan. Bd. date is April 20<sup>th</sup>. Mark B. had concern of height being visible behind the Civic Bldg.

**Action** – CED voted support pending report from civic association and pending parallax view of condos from the Veteran's Plaza. Phil will check both and write letter.

### **City Place**

Phil Olivetti stated that he suspect some if not all of you had seen the article in the Washington Post about City Place and the CED Committee has discussed the issue and met with the marketing people on at least two occasions and on Wednesday night the committee will be discussing the issue in more detail. It is obvious we can not solve the problem. We want to get a sense so we can provide some ideas and strategies for what if anything the Board can do to going forward and assisting so this will be more of a brainstorming session for the CED Committee come up with ideas for the full SSCAB. **Next CED meeting will be on March 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the New Fire Station, Urban District Office, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 8110 Georgia Avenue and parking is available in back of the building.**

Meeting ended 9:20PM Minutes by Marilyn Seitz, edited /reviewed by Phil, Mark

Mark Woodard asked if a response had been sent from the Planning Board regarding infrastructure.

Gary Stith stated that no response has been received as yet

### **Neighborhoods Committee**

Alan Browser reported that:

The Neighborhoods Committee met on February 27, 2006, 7:00 P.M. – Silver Spring Regional Center

**Attending:** Anita Morrison, Alan Bowser, Martha Waddy, Charlotte Coffield, Jerry Yokoyama, Victor Salazar, Caren Madsen, Hans Riemer, Darian Unger, Lt. Ray Hansen (MCPD), Sharon Suarez (Parks & Planning), Elizabeth Davison (Housing & Community Affairs), Joseph Giloley (Housing & Community Affairs), and Mel Tull (Silver Spring Regional Services Center).

- **Public Safety:** Lt. Ray Hansen, MCPD reported on Central Business District crime statistics. He reported that crime, broadly speaking, had declined 20 percent in 2005.

However, there were several areas that warranted continued MCPD vigilance, including activities of some homeless individuals, juveniles congregating in public places after school and, especially Friday and Saturday evenings, and recent spikes in vehicle break-in and thefts. Some arrests have been made in the case of vehicle break-ins. MCPD will continue to work with private security forces to improve enforcement in popular areas. Lt. Hansen expressed concern that there would be an increase in minor crimes as the weather became warmer. He also announced that a new MCPD sub-station would be operational soon. Committee members asked questions about crime in several residential areas, including Long Branch and the Lyttonsville/Montgomery Hills neighborhoods.

- **Affordable Housing:** Sharon Suarez of the Montgomery County Department of Parks & Planning discussed the economics of affordable housing. She presented indicators of affordable housing, noting that residential housing sales remained strong in Silver Spring, that housing prices continued to increase, and that the apartment market continued to tightened, with increasing rents and decreasing vacancy rates. She expressed concern about the increasing size and price of new condominium and single-family units, commenting that prevailing trends limited the expansion of affordable housing in the area as well as the density of population near Metro stations. Elizabeth Davison, Director, Department of Housing & Community Affairs discussed “Regulating Condo Conversions in Montgomery County.” She summarized the various county and state laws affecting condominium conversion and County resources dedicated to helping tenants when a conversion was proposed. After discussing issues related to condominium conversion and the Moderately Price Dwelling Unit (MPDU) program, the Committee considered and approved a draft Board letter on affordable housing.

Alan Bowser stated that getting our hands around the affordable housing policy in Montgomery County is a huge issue and we wanted to focus on just a piece of this and it has to do with condominium conversions and the Moderately Price Dwelling Unit (MPDU) program. We thought this was a place where we could make the most useful intervention and the letter is on page 50 and I move that the Board favorably consider this letter for transmittal to the County Executive.

**Motion:** (Bowser, Salazar), that the Board favorably consider this letter for transmittal to the County Executive regarding the Boards concerns about decreasing availability of affordable housing in the community. *(15 voted in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention).*

- **Library Parking Policy:** The Committee considered a draft letter on county library parking policies. After discussion, the letter, which supports the provision of free parking for library users in Silver Spring, was approved.

Alan Bowser stated that Neighborhoods Committee asked that the Board consider approving the letter on page 51 which supports the provision of free parking for library users in Silver Spring. We referenced in the letter the Resolution introduced in the County Council by Councilmembers Andrews, Denis, Perez, Subin, Floreen and Silverman in support of FREE parking for library users at all County Libraries. Paul Folkers in his presentation also stated that the County

Executive also supports this and I would move that this letter be considered by the full board for transmittal.

**Motion:** (Bowser, Harwich) that the Board vote to send the letter of support

Korey Hartwich stated that a friendly amendment has been suggested by Mitch Warren. modifying the very first sentence to read The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board would like to reiterate our strong support for our new library in downtown Silver Spring and continue to urge you to ensure that construction begin as quickly as possible.

Mitch Warren stated that his concern is that it's not so much opposition to what you are trying to do but it is more an issue of timing and maybe a little bit to defend the honor of the Transportation/Pedestrian Safety Committee. I know the debate has been in the Gazette and primarily coming from the Rockville Library and issues related to Rockville. The Silver Spring Library was planned to be an urban library and I would argue that Silver Spring is much more of an urban place than Rockville is and does not necessarily mean that free parking is a bad thing. I think there is an issue involving mass transit and if we are going to subsidize parking but not subsidize people that decide to come by bus or metro it seems that there are some legitimate transportation issue that the Transportation Committee would do well to take up before we sent the letter. I know there are timing issues and a debate in Council is coming up and I think it will pass any way. I think again it is focused on Rockville so I don't think there is a reason not to give the Transportation Committee an opportunity to take a look at this and come back once we have had both perspectives of it from Neighborhoods and Transportation and look at this at our next meeting.

Charlotte Coffield stated that it seems that the free parking issue has taken on a life of its own and thought the timing is now because action is being taken on this issue by Council. If we wait and keep delaying the Board support it may be to late because if the decision is made now things will be in cement and to late to turn it around. We all know it is easier to get in on the ground floor rather than wait and try to get a waiver later. This does not mean we do not support moving the library issue ahead but I think we should support FREE parking for the library and I strongly recommend supporting the letter as written.

Darian Unger stated that he disagrees with the letter and he was the only person that voted against in the Committee. One part of this mimics what Mitch Warren just stated. I oppose this for four reasons. The first is that I feel uncomfortable saying we are doing this for the poor and given that some of our neighbors are of limited means and that this will discourage the use of library and in fact this is a subsidy for the rich because basically people that are poor take the bus and we are not subsidizing them we are subsidizing people with cars. I don't think we should go around stating that because people are of limited means this is .50 cent during weekdays and business hours and other than that it is entirely FREE parking anyway so I think we are subsidizing rich people and cars. To the extent that this is a new library in an urban area a block away from one of the biggest public transit center ever and now we are going to be encouraging people to drive by insisting on FREE parking all the time when we already have it most of the week. I think this encourages a car culture which we don't need to be doing especially given the new Silver Spring. There is no lack of public access to this library right now and also we are

doing this without any thought as to what it will do to traffic on Fenton Street which East Silver Spring community residents are already deeply concerned about and we have not considered that at all so that is the second reason. The third is that we say you can build parking or subsidize parking but if you subsidize parking in the place across the street aside from subsidizing car owners it would also required some sort of validation and that makes me feel funny. I don't think that libraries should be in the position of monitoring when people come in and how long they stay and do you have to be there a 10 minute period to get your free parking and is anyone going to pay attention to that. I am quiet sure the librarians don't want to do that and given current homeland security issues and privacy concerns and government monitoring I do not think there is a good way to do this. I have spoken to a few librarians in the Rockville library and asked how they handle parking and they actual do try to restrict parking to library patrons and it is completely ignore and they can not enforce it because no one is willing to look an see if people are going in the library or somewhere else so the third reason is the alternative which is subsidize or some sort of validation system is either not tenable or is going to violate civil liberty concerns that I personally have and the fourth is I believe there are alternatives and per Alan Bowser request I am foregoing my suggestion that it go to the Transportation/Pedestrian Safety Committee as a parking issue. I think there are alternatives for example if we are going to do this tie it into a transit subsidy or we are going to give people money off to park there cars than give people money off on some add fare machine linked to Metro. Perhaps we could suggest a 10 minute drop-off and pick spot or something like that and therefore I am not sure this letter is the way to go and I respectfully disagree with the letter and respect those who brought this letter forward to the board with good intentions and we all want the library to work really well but I disagree with the letter.

Phil Olivetti stated that he agreed with everything that Darian Unger said. We are talking about Silver Spring and there is legislation in Annapolis on Eminent Domain issues and if that passes you won't see a library in Silver Spring because you won't have Public/Private Partnership building a library on that particular land so I think this letter is premature. Why worry about **FREE** parking when what we should be doing is petitioning the Judiciary Committee in Annapolis not to pass Eminent Domain because it's a very good probability that you won't get this library in this location. I suspect that there are people in this room that oppose the ICC because it has to do with cars and are the same ones with all due respect that support this letter because we want to put more cars on the road. I think it is a greater concern of the people that have to walk across Fenton Street and Wayne which is going to be redeveloped. A couple of years from now it is going to be much more difficult to get across those roads. We have said nothing about being creative in terms of where the money comes from. We will make sure that the 20% optional development gets in this project and so the developer will build a nice little park with public art in it but why not take that money and actually use the money and maybe apply it toward paying for the free parking and subsidized transportation . We have not even addressed that issue and we are not even offering to the County any creative solutions. The developer will make million of dollars off this project why not get the developer to take in the pay for parking. All this states is County taxpayers we want you to subsidize parking.

Debbie Spielberg stated that she just wanted to clarify the current library plan and we are hoping to have an update on what the current plan is for it to be a Public/Private Partnership so the

developer would be involved in the building of the library and presumably there would be condo units just up above.

Korey Hartwich stated that in terms of timing the committee dealing with this will be before Council on March 27 and Council will move for consideration immediately after so if we are going to be part of the discussion about the Countywide Free parking at library policy now is the time for action. I want to answer Darian Unger question and it may be that folks that have plenty of money do use this and I understand but I am concerned about neighbors that pretty much live paycheck to paycheck and money is tight and they do drive and I think that creating a barrier to entrance to our libraries that differentiates people based on income is not the way to go. I am in Phil Olivetti's category because I oppose the ICC and I do so because more car driving is not the way to go and as Mitch Warren was suggesting we should encourage mass transit options to use this and I would be thrilled to explore with any one that would like ways to add to the subsidy and I am under the impression that we do subsidize transit in this County with metro and ride-on we do not pay market fares. Perhaps increasing that in certain cases for certain routes that have to do with the library we can talk about. In the end we as a society have decided that this should be free and accessible to all. I believe what you are doing by requiring people to pay for parking is creating a variable entry for some people.

Mark Woodard stated that this matter is pending we have the opportunity to go on record to support free parking for public libraries. When you go to the current library on Colesville Road there is no charge to park and I would like to see this continue. All the other issues are very interesting but not necessarily particularly relevant to the matter at hand I concur with the comments of Korey Hartwich and Charlotte Coffield and I move to previous question, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Phil Olivetti

Debbie Spielberg asked the board for a vote of all in favor of move to previous question there was not a 2/3 vote to move previous question and debate.

Victor Salazar stated that he heard arguments at the Neighborhood Committee and appreciate the comments. I am in support of the letter and some of the things Mark Woodard brought forward. My additional comments and I am not going to refute everything that has been brought up or make an attempt but we need to talk about relevance and that has been a subject of discussion that we have talk about in the last six months about making the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board more relevant in our community. The County Council is about to take action on a particular item and the text and document is written in a broader language that encompasses all of our libraries and even though there may be an issue the controversy that is sparking this discussion may start in Rockville they are talking about all the libraries in Montgomery County. I just want to bring back to you the point whose is going to be using the library. I deal with a lot of parents that are struggling living paycheck to paycheck who have mini-vans full of children that would like to utilize a local library and if there is free parking available they would prefer to go there than have to take the kids all the way to Wheaton where there is free parking and I think they would like to use the services here in Silver Spring but a dollar multiplied by 5 trips in a week if their child has a project that is due and they have to access the library five times they may choose the five dollars go to a happy meal instead of five dollars going to County parking

So this is an opportunity for the Board to go on the record when there is an action about to be taking by the County. I would rather that we be on the record with our position than silent and still mulling it over in Committee so I propose that we forward the letter.

Alan Bowser stated that he agreed that this is more than a Transportation issue this is an access issue and giving incentive for people to use the library not creating a disincentive for them to use it. I mention that this is a time sensitive and the Committee is taking this up on March 27 and if we are going to do this we need to do this in this timeframe. I could not agree more with what Victor Salazar stated about relevance we as the Board are trying to reach transparency, accountability and relevance to the community and this is the way we can weigh in on this issue. We had a discussion about this letter in the Executive Committee and we know there is not going to be necessarily parking on site and nobody is talking about having a dozen parking spaces outside with some flagged for handicap and other flag for free parking we changed this letter to reflect the last paragraph telling the County Executive that we would like to work with him and explore options about not having parking spaces at the building and have a validation system and my understanding from what the County is doing now even in Rockville is looking at these other ways to validate and make this system work and by the time we get a library hopefully before 2013 I think they will have the situation resolved so I strongly support this letter and hope that you all will support it too.

Eric Hensal stated that he thought access was important and I do agree on the point of transit versus subsidizing cars and it is a validate issue and I think Victor Salazar mentioned something about bringing a family and in terms of adding each individual fare on the bus than you are talk some numbers. I would like to have if possible some sort of parking validation which I think is important or some sort of creative way to address transit in terms of bus transfer or getting a ticket stamp or whatever sort of Ride-On system is with there cards. I think that this is something that should be put in the letter to explore ways to make transit more accessible to families. I think everyone has very validate points and there was a statement which I had not concerned regarding the larger planning issue resolving around the library and perhaps we can get to a point where we can insert a sentence that would encourage some creative approaches to allow working families better access to transit system.

John Evansoff stated that he would like to propose friendly amendments to the letter. I support the idea of increasing access, and ensuring that this public resource to our library is available for the public at-large. Right now there is free parking at the Silver Spring Library and my family uses the library a lot so I know very well that it is a great resource. I understand Phil Olivetti's concern about may be exploring Public/Private Partnerships and perhaps this is a good point to add to the letter particular the next to the last sentence where we say we encourage the County to provide that important option at the Silver Spring Library may be we can change that to say We encourage the County to explore Public/Private Partnerships to ensure that the access issue is addressed for our members here. Another idea I have is to put a statement clearly up-front saying this is an access issue for the Board and not a statement on mass transit and it does not undermine our other opinion on mass transit. I offer this as a way to move the letter along and alleviate the concerns that have been expressed by other opposition.

Kathy Stevens stated that the discussion has been great and I have learned a lot at the meeting this evening and things have been brought to light that I have not thought about in terms of this issue. In the process of working up this letter I find myself wondering who would use the not yet built library where are the people coming from. I go to Long Branch Library instead of Silver Spring of course both have free parking but I wonder about the so called the neighbors of limited means, where they would be, can they get to a bus or metro and in terms of thinking more deeply about when we gather information to put into letters and issues about the community and this is simply a process question for the committee whether there was any kind of survey work done or talking to people at Long Branch and Silver Spring about where most of there patrons are from, and how they get there and that data may not be available but I would find it interesting to put into the mix of these discussions for future references, talk to some of the user what would or would not help in terms of there access and what is important to them.

Charlotte Coffield stated that in all of discussion that I heard tonight and the points that Darian Unger raised I have not heard anyone mention Senior Citizens using the library and seniors do use the library a lot. To take public transportation is a time factor issue involved. Now seniors and including myself will get in a car and go to the library rather than take a two hour trip using public transportation. It is not that public transportation is not available but it is a time factor involved and normally seniors do more than one thing on a trip. They would not go to library and go home they do other things on the trip so if there is free parking and it will also determine whether they will even go to the library if they have to use public transportation or pay. So please keep seniors in mind.

Darian Unger stated that this is a good discussion but this is about .50 cent an hour not one dollar an hour. I just want to state that accessibility can be drawn up many ways. Accessibility to what the library does is not just whether or not you get there its whether or not there are books, and a librarian. Is the money for parking going to be coming from the operating budget of the library does it mean fewer books and librarians if so it means less access. We can define access in a lot of ways and it is not just driving somewhere.

Mitch Warren stated that DC libraries don't have free parking people are expected to walk or take public transportation. Silver Spring is not as urban as DC. I think it would have been helpful for the Transportation/Pedestrian Safety Committee to take a look at this because there are a lot of good transportation issues that I don't think to be relevant and I don't think we need to just send this letter out because realistically it is a done deal and we know how the Council is going to vote so it is not like we are making a different but we could make a different by focusing on getting the library built. I think this issue would be better going to the Transportation/Pedestrian Safety Committee and I appreciate the issues that have been discussed by Board members that support the letter but I will stand by the Transportation/Pedestrian Safety Committee.

Victor Weissberg stated that he just wanted to add what Mitch Warren just said and that is I have heard some terrific points made on both sides of this argument and I know there are some time sensitive element but I think it is really more important for us to make the right judgment and there are issues that would be appropriate to go to the Transportation/Pedestrian Safety Committee to take a deeper look at this.

Debbie Spielberg stated that John Evansoff and Eric Hensal had mentioned making amendments to the letter.

Korey Hartwich asked Eric if he had the language correct as follows: *We also encourage the county to pursue a strategy to make libraries accessible by transit for all residents.*

Graciela Jaschek reiterated what everyone else has stated that the discussion was interesting discussion. I am sitting on the fence because I can not decide one way or the other and I think outside of the box and I decided that I would send this letter but there is a sentence that really offense me and this is the part that We are concerned that leaving residents out that do not have the means to park. I feel that low income people have ways to get there if they want to get there and I don't know why it has to be free parking to encourage them to come to the library why can it not be free parking for all. I come to Long Branch plenty of times during the week and it is always full of kids in the afternoon and on Saturday. So I just wanted to let everyone know that the sentence is disturbing to me and I do understand that we want to be sensitive to those who do not have the means but this is a broader issue

Korey Hartwich stated if Graciela Jaschek was looking at paragraph 2 which states we are concerned with leaving residents with no free place to park. I propose based on what you have said that we eliminate the next phase given that some of our neighbors have limited means and continue with will discourage the use of libraries.

John Evansoff stated that he would add to the 2 paragraph a statement that said currently there is free parking available at the existing Silver Spring Library and would add it as the last sentence to that paragraph. The point of the sentence is to reiterate that we would like to continue that option. We have free parking now and we would like to continue that at the new library when it is built.

Debbie Spielberg stated that the letter has been amended by Eric Hensal, sentence deleted by Graciela Jaschek and another sentence included.

Korey Hartwich read the amended language to the first, second and fourth paragraph as follows:

The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board reiterates our strong support for a new library in downtown Silver Spring and continues to urge you to ensure that construction begins as quickly as possible.

We understand that the current design of the new Silver Spring Library does not include parking. We are concerned that leaving residents with no free place to park will discourage the use of libraries. Currently there is free parking at the Silver Spring Library.

The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board shares your commitment to open and accessible libraries. We support free parking at the Silver Spring Library. We also encourage the county to pursue a strategy to make libraries accessible by transit for all residents.

**Motion:** All in favor of sending the County Library Parking letter as amended to the County Executive (*9 in favor, 7 opposed and 1 abstention*). (*See informational material for finalized letter*).

### **Tree Maintenance**

Alan Bowser stated that one of the things that happen over the course which is related to the Neighborhoods Committee and one of the things we did early this year is send a letter to the County regarding Tree Maintenance bringing their attention to the tree over in the Lyttonsville Community. We got good news that the tree has been removed. We normally don't say thank you to the Government and the things that they do so I propose a letter and it is a concept letter which I drafted today and basically it to County Executive Duncan thanking him for replying promptly to our letter. We commend your staff's work in moving this tree at Pennsylvania and Michigan and I go on to thank, in particular, Messrs. Guy Turenne and Al Roshdieh from the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation, Messrs. Gary Stith and Mel Tull of the Silver Spring Regional Service Center, and Mr. Paul Folkers of your staff for addressing this situation which was of significant concern to our neighbors in the Lyttonsville Community. (See informational material for finalized

**Motion:** (Bowser, Spielberg) that the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agree to support the thank you letter to the County Executive for cutting down the tree at Pennsylvania and Michigan. (*17 in favor*) (*See informational material for finalized letter*).

**Next meeting:** March 20, 2006, New Fire Station, Urban District Office, 8110 Georgia, 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room

- **Future Issues:** The next meeting will consider County code enforcement and public safety issues, including animal control laws. Caren Madsen suggested a number of environmental issues that the Committee might consider in the Spring.

### **Transportation/Pedestrian Safety Committee**

Debbie Spielberg, Acting Chair reported that:

The Transportation Committee of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board met on February 22, 2006.

**Present:** Darian Unger, Eric Hensal, Bob Colvin, Mitch Warren, Dale Tibbitts, Alan Bowser, Korey Hartwich, Marcie Stickle, Debbie Spielberg, Vic Weissberg, Jewes Brosuar, Harry Sanders, and Evan Glass

**Staff Present:** Gary Stith, SSRC; Sgt. Tom Harmon, Police – Traffic Division; Emil Wolanin, Chief Transportation Engineer, DPWT; and Tom Autrey, M-NCPPC - Transportation

After introductions, Debbie Spielberg, Acting Committee Chair, asked Emil Wolanin to present a report on the Silver Spring on-street parking before and after analysis.

### **Traffic Operations**

Travel times remained the same during AM and PM peak hours. Travel times increased for northbound traffic on Georgia Avenue and Colesville Road during midday peak hours; however the increase was not statistically significant.

Parking violations were a concern that could cause an impact on rush hour traffic. Data shows that on average, 49 cars were towed per month in a 9-month period along Georgia Avenue between Colesville Road and Spring Street and 30 cars were towed during the same period along Colesville Road between Fenton Street and Spring Street. These levels of towing are not out of the ordinary from what has been experienced in other areas of the County.

### **Impact on Neighborhoods**

Traffic count data was collected at 11 locations for 48 hours during the week around the CBD area before and after the on-street parking was established. Saturday counts were also conducted. Data analysis showed no significant impact, that is, there was no significant change in the traffic counts on neighborhood streets. DPWT did not receive any complaints from citizens associations during the study period.

Based on this evaluation, DPWT is recommending to the State Highway Administration for the on-street parking to be made permanent.

No action was taken by the Committee.

Emil Wolanin was asked about variations in the operation of Countdown Pedestrian Signals. The signals are inconsistent in the time after going to zero and the yellow signal activation.

He tried to explain that the 1970's technology still being used by the County to manage the signal system did not allow the programming that gives the appropriate countdown for different signals. Until the hardware and software is upgraded, this situation will continue to exist. He reported that people seemed to like the countdown signals and their had been a noticeable change in people's behavior in that they cleared the crosswalk more frequently before the signal went to don't walk.

Mr. Wolanin was also asked about traffic flow and parking on Wayne Avenue between Georgia Avenue and Cedar. It was reported that the parking on the south side of Wayne Avenue between Georgia and Fenton Street would likely no be put back after it is removed for the construction of the condominium project in the middle of the block. He indicated that he would review the parking on the south side of Wayne Avenue to the east of Fenton Street where it is causing traffic problems when vehicles are stopped to make the left turn into the Wholefoods parking lot.

He also was asked about the crosswalk on Fenton Street at the drive from Wholefoods. He indicated he would look into that again but he was sure there was a problem with the roadway alignment there. He also pointed out that putting in a mid-block crosswalk did not make pedestrian safer. It gave them a false sense of safety.

He was asked about cut through traffic study process. He indicated that a process was set out in Executive Regulations and he would provide the committee with a copy through the Silver

Spring Regional Center. The process for requesting and getting approval for speed humps is outlined in Executive Regulations that are posted on the DPWT webpage on the Montgomery County website.

The Committee thanked Mr. Wolanin for coming and looked forward to the follow up to some of these questions.

### **Discussion of the Beltway Expansion Issue**

Tony Hausner presented information about the proposed expansion of Beltway and the use of express toll lanes. There will be a forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters on March 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Blair High School Auditorium.

Action: A letter was presented to the committee against the proposed widening and the use of express toll lanes. After some discussion and modifications to the letter, the committee voted to recommend to the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board that the revised letter against the widening and the use of express toll lanes be sent to the County Executive and the County Council.

### **SSCAB Discussion**

Korey Hartwich stated that there is talk about widening the beltway including current proposals for the creation of toll lanes basically I think this is a million dollars and it will be our tax dollars subsidizing roads that will not solve the problem at all. It will be an enormous expense and tolls will not pay for it and it will be your tax dollars. I would like to introduce **Tony** \_\_\_\_\_ who is here from the President Association of Silver Spring Organizations.

**Tony** \_\_\_\_\_ stated that as we all know when they widen 270 several years ago it was just as congested as it was before hand so one of the things we have learned is that widening roads does not solve traffic problems. They are going to take what is now four lanes carrying traffic in each direction and you will end up with three regular travel lanes and the new express toll lane so there will be less lanes for the general public. The other aspect is you will have much more traffic coming in from Georgia Avenue, Connecticut, Colesville Road etc., so those roads will be much more congested. Local roads are going to be also congested. Another aspect is that the express toll lane people are not going to be able to afford that because the tolls will be high so that is discrimination between those that have wealth and those who are not so wealthy and that is a major issue we should be concerned about. There are going to be a number of homes taken and at last week's forum there were twenty-three parks affected by this development a lot of historic properties effected. Air pollution and noise level will be increasing and these are the reason we think it is a bad idea. The alternatives are encouraging transit light rail or bus systems improvement, better land use planning, smarter growth.

Mitch Warren suggested one minor edit and that was to delete the second bullet.

**Motion:** (Speilberg, Olivetti) that the letter for Solutions to Traffic Problems be approved by the Silver Spring Citizens Board as amended. *(15 in favor, 2 abstentions) (See informational material for finalized letter).*

**Discussion of the State Match for Federal Funds for the construction of the Silver Spring Transit Center**

Gary Stith reported that the County had asked the State for matching funds to the Federal Earmark for the expansion of the Silver Spring Transit Center. These funds were not included in the Governor's Budget. The Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee is writing a letter to the Governor indicating how important the expanded Transit Center is to the future of Silver Spring and would like to ask the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board to do the same.

Action: The Transportation Committee voted to recommend to the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board that a letter be sent to the Governor asking that he fund the match for the Federal funds for the expansion of the Silver Spring Transit Center.

**SSCAB Discussion:**

Debbie Spielberg explained that the Federal Government is providing over 50 million dollars for this project and they need matching requirements from the State.

Gary Stith stated that Paul Folkers raised the issue that Board is advisory to the County Executive and Council and he suggested that the letter be rewritten and addressed to the County Executive asking him to urge the Governor and cc: Governor Ehrlich

Mitch Warren stated that it would be nice to receive a response from the Governor as to why he is not funding it.

Debbie Spielberg reiterated what Gary Stith and Paul Folkers asked and that was for the letter to go to County Executive and cc: Governor Ehrlich.

**Motion:** (Bowser, Grigsby) that the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, accept the friendly amend to re-address the letter to the County Executive and cc: the Governor Ehrlich and Flannagan.

Mitch Warren stated that he would like to see why Governor Ehrlich is not providing the matching funds so I would like the letter to go directly to Erhlich.

Mark Woodard stated he thought the point was well taken and that we are an Advisory Board to the County Government and appreciate Mitch Warren point and perhaps before the letter goes out we can request that the County Executive will share the response from the Governor if there is one with the SSCAB.

**Motion:** (Bowser, Grigsby) that the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, accept the friendly amend to re-address the letter to the County Executive and cc: the Governor Ehrlich and Flannagan, and Delegation (9 in favor, 5 opposed, 2 abstentions)

Victor Weissberg stated in the first paragraph second sentence change the language to read have not provided the additional matching funds necessary to complete this project that has received over \$50 million dollars in federal funds.

Victor Salaraz stated that he had concern about defining the jurisdiction of our Board as we move forward and this decision is going to be a precedent setting decision about who the SSCAB writes letter to. I share Mitch Warren concern and would like to receive a response from the Governor. I attended the unveiling of the County Executive Operating Budget today and a very pointed question to the County Executive was what is going on with those matching funds and he really did not have a satisfactory answer in terms of how the Government is going to help in our community. I am going to reference our bylaws and the things that drive who and what we are. The second paragraph clearly states that the County Executive, County Council and other appropriate Governmental bodies so the letter is well within our jurisdiction as a Board to be able to send it to the Governor because we are asking about a particular project that relates to the people we represent and we advise the County Executive and Council on so that is my comment and I want to make sure that this is on the record and that our bylaws state who we should be writing to and what we are allowed to do and also have this incorporated as part of our decision making process.

Loyce Grigsby stated that this issue comes up periodically as Board members changer. We have gone through this same issue a number of times since I have been on the Board and it has been clearly stated that we are appointed by the County Executive and we have to go through him and that is just protocol.

Korey Hartwich stated that this has been brought up repeatedly and discussed. I have asked every time for some type of regulation, rule or something else that tells us that we can only write to the County Executive and County Council and every time I have not heard back on the issue so as far as I know this is a precedent that we have been told about but received nothing in writing. Personally I don't think we should restrict who we write to based on people discussions and therefore I think we have the right to write to other Governmental Bodies until someone shows me a rule that states otherwise.

Debbie Spielberg stated that all those in favor of sending the letter as amended by Vic Weissberg and addressing it to the County Executive and cc: the Governor Ehrlich, Robert Flannigan, and Delegation.

**Motion:** The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board unanimously agreed to send the letter of support as amended and addressing it to the County Executive and cc: the Governor Ehrlich and Flannigan, and Delegation.

Debbie Spielberg stated that on page 63 in the Bylaws we have created a new position for a Secretary and explains the position and responsibility. I am accepting nomination for the Secretary and I believe we will be voting on this issue at the next full Board meeting. The Nominating Committee in this case is made up of the Executive Committee so you may submit them to me or Korey, Victor, Alan, and Phil.

Graciela Jaschek reported that on Tuesday, March 7 we had the first meeting for the management options for the Town Hall Center an ad-hoc committee. Only three attended and for those that could not make it I hope they will be able to attend the next meeting. Essentially what we decided at that meeting is that there is a timeline we need to follow. Any recommendations we make for the management options will go into the FY 08 budget so it has to be introduced in the budget by December 2006. Gary Stith has asked for a decision by September at the latest. Gary Stith will be talking to OMB this summer about putting something in the budget regardless of the Government's option that we select. There will be a meeting on April 3, and the discussion will be about the background history on the Town Hall Center which has been going on for several years. We want people to attend the meeting to learn about the background history, we will also be going through an envisioning process, look at different options and look at the pros and cons. The next meeting will be on May 1 and we will decide on the governance models so I urge anyone that is interested in making a decision and participating in the decision making process on the management options for the Town Hall Center to attend. If you can not attend we can update you on the information and your opinions will still count. Gracelia Jaschek stated that she will send out an e-mail of time, and location of these two meetings.

Debbie Spielberg introduced Roylene Roberts, Long Branch Redevelopment Manager, Department Housing and Community Affairs to the Board and stated that she had been invited to give an update on Long Branch and everyone should have a handout on that.

Roylene Roberts stated that the presentation would take more than five minutes and that she assumed board members would have questions on Long Branch so if the Board would like I can come back and give the presentation. I assume you have questions on Long Branch.

Alan Bowser stated that he would like to spend a lot of time on Long Branch because it is a big deal.

Debbie Spielberg stated that Kathy Stevens had mentioned discussion of Long Branch and that perhaps we could have a joint meeting with the new Long Branch Advisory Committee. This is something we can discuss at the Executive Committee about doing this justice as opposed to allotting fifteen minutes. I do on behalf of the Board apology to Roylene Roberts for having to come out this evening.

Kathy Stevens asked if she could just put on the table for the Executive Committee to schedule this again for the April meeting and if possible have no committee reports or brief committee reports at the end of the meeting and take time to focus on Long Branch and see if we can reach out to our new colleagues on the Long Branch Advisory Committee to involve them in the meeting as well.

Debbie Spielberg asked the full Board if they were in agreement that Long Branch was an important topic. The board agreed

Roylene Roberts stated that April 22 is Earth Day. One of our major project will involves providing handicap accessible means to get from between here to the community center and library. We will be having a big clean-up in conjunction with the Anacostia Watershed and

some of the apartment complexes who will work with us and we have been reaching out to some civic associations and I would like to invite all of you to join us from 9:00 a.m. to noon. We will be meeting right outside of the Gwendolyn Coffield Center. There will be community service hours for children.

Victor Salazar stated on the agenda it states CAB Support for Youth and Family Fair will be on April 29<sup>th</sup> the number of organizations will get together at the Community Leader Forum on Youth Violence that we co-hosted with MCCPTA last November they are identifying families and students and inviting them to an event at Blair High School which is in our jurisdiction this time and is being put on by Montgomery County Police, CSAFE, Montgomery County Public School Safe and drug free schools, Montgomery County Department Recreation and a number of other youth organizations. Since we were the co-host of the first they are asking if we would like to co-host again not asking us to make presentations or provide any money. They are just asking if we could use our name and that we promote the event on the same lists servers as we promoted the original event on. This is open to anyone that would like to attend in terms of residents. This is the continuing work in conjunction with a bunch of other organizations broader than MCCPTA and the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board to continue to try and stem the tide with regards to youth violence in our schools and community. So the motion is does the Board support the use of the Boards name and becoming a co-sponsor or a partner in this particular event.

Alan Bowser stated that this is a follow-up to work that we did and I think it is important to follow-up on the things that we have done and as to this program in November I think we should support.

**Motion:** (Salazar, Olivetti) that the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agreed unanimously to support the use of the Boards name, and become a co-sponsor of the Youth and Family Fair.

### **Director Report**

Gary Stith reported that:

- Recently the County applied for Priority Place Designation for Long Branch. The County Executive has announced that the County's Long Branch community has been designated a "Priority Place" by the State of Maryland, making the area a five-year funding priority for state funds that improve the economy and environment of the area. The Priority Place initiative seeks to encourage walkable, mixed-use communities with a variety of housing and transportation choices. Kudos to Roylene Roberts for all her efforts.
- We are getting ready to launch a website called Silver Spring downtown.com. I hope will be up by the end of the week. An e-mail will go out once it is up and I think you will find it interesting. This is an interactive mapping system that allows us to put information about businesses in downtown up on a map and they are sorted by different categories

and you go and find information about where the restaurants, retail businesses and arts related things. When you click on the particular businesses it pops-up and give information on the businesses and how far away it from parking, nearest Van Go stop, non restaurant businesses it can tell you where restaurants are in the vicinity of that businesses. We think this will be a very exciting and useful marketing tool for businesses in downtown Silver Spring.

### **Civic Building Update**

- The PHED Committee has recommended to full Council that the Civic Building be funded at the level requested by the County Executive. That will be reviewed tomorrow afternoon by the full Council and we hope that Council will agree with the County Executive recommendation.
- I have asked Doug Katz to be the Facilitator for the SSCAB Annual Retreat on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Doug has done a lot of work in facilitating groups in the County and he early on was the facilitator we used in working with the downtown Silver Spring Redevelopment Steering Committee and is very familiar with the downtown issues from way back. He will be calling some of you and doing an interview to find out about issues and items you think the SSCAB group needs be working on. He will be meeting with me later this week and he will be talking to Debbie Spielberg.

Debbie Spielberg stated that please call her or e-mail her about things you feel need to be discussed at the retreat.

- HHS Committee have reviewed the funding for the Library and the Committee is recommending to full Council that the Library project be moved back to where it was before.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.**